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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,574	07/17/2003	Michel Lauziere		8882
7590	05/10/2004		EXAMINER	VASUDEVA, AJAY
Michel Lauziere 263, Chemin Mont Ste-Anne Ste-Anne des Lacs, QC J0R 1B0 CANADA			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3617	

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/620,574	LAUZIERE, MICHEL <i>JP</i>	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Ajay Vasudeva	3617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 28-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 17 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claims 1, 28 and 29 are objected to because of the following informalities:
  - In claims 28 and 29 (lines 13, respectively), change "intermediated" to -- **intermediate** – to correct a typographical error..
  - In claims 1, 28 and 29 (lines 22, 19, 19, respectively), change "for abuttingly supporting the latter" (emphasis added) to -- for abuttingly supporting **said person** – for clarity in the language of the claim.

Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. Claims 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In the independent claims 28 and 29 (line 15, respectively), use of "said seat component" makes the claim indefinite as there is no proper antecedent basis for such phrase in the claim.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

4. Claims 1-27 would be allowable if claim 1 is rewritten or amended to overcome the objection set forth in item #1 of this Office action.

5. Claims 28-30 would be allowable if claims 28 and 29 are rewritten or amended to overcome:

- (i) the objection set forth in item #1 of this Office action, as well as
- (ii) the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action by providing proper antecedent basis for the phrase "said seat component" in the claims.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims 1-30 would be allowable if amended as suggested above, because the prior art does not show or teach a flotation device having an elongate buoyant body with a surface intermediate first and second longitudinal ends; a seat extending outwardly from the buoyant body's surface so as to allow the device to buoyantly support a person in water in both a reclining and a sitting position, wherein when in the reclining position, the buoyant body is in a flat configuration to allow the person's rear trunk surface to be abuttingly supported on the surface between the first longitudinal end and the seat component; and wherein when in a sitting position, the buoyant body is bent adjacent the seat, so as to allow the person to be abuttingly supported on the seat, the seat extending between the legs adjacent a crotch of the person.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

The cited art in form PTO-892 shows flotation devices which are capable of supporting users in reclining and sitting positions.

DE ('331) shows a flotation device made of two elongate sections.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ajay Vasudeva whose telephone number is (703) 306-5992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 1:00 pm-5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S. Joe Morano can be reached on (703) 308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ajay Vasudeva  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3617

*AV*  
AV

*S. J. MORANO*  
S. JOSEPH MORANO  
CHIEF EXAMINER/PATENT EXAMINER  
ELECTRONIC BUSINESS CENTER 3600